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REVIEW OF ACTUAL AND PLANNED PROGRESS  
IN RADIOIFICATION IN 9 USSR REPUBLICS

The following report is a compilation of information on the progress of radiofication in nine republics of the USSR in 1952, including some comparative data for earlier years, reported in the Soviet press during 1952 and early 1953.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.7

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Latvian SSR

The Riga city radio relay network is expanding every year, according to Sovetskaya Latviya of 13 August 1952. The paper estimated that there were about 37,000 wired radio speakers in Riga, and that more than 60,000 of Riga's inhabitants have their own radio receivers.(1)

Sovetskaya Latviya of 3 August 1952 declared that great work was being done on the radiofication of railroad lines; 248 stations, 335 barracks for railroad workers, and 113 hotels had been radiofied.(2)

Lithuanian SSR

Writing in Sovetskaya Litva of 10 September 1952, N. Belyanin, the authorized representative of the Ministry of Communications for the Lithuanian SSR, reported that 1,332 kolkhozes were radiofied in September 1952. In the course of 2 previous years, kolkhozes had built 30 wired radio centers with their own resources and installed 1,100 wired radio speakers. The total number of wired radio centers in all the villages of the Lithuanian SSR, Belyanin continued, is 300 and the number of radio installation exceeds 13,000. Other republics supply Lithuania with technical equipment. Belyanin explained that 50 to 200 electrodynamic loud-speakers can be connected to a kolkhoz wired radio center.

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Power for operating the wired radio centers can come from the electrical network, or, in places where there is no electricity, from storage batteries charged by wind-operated generators. The state, according to Belyanin, makes large loans for radiofication, while fulfillment of the work for the construction of kolkhoz wired radio centers is entrusted to the oblast directorates of radio relay networks and to the chiefs of rayon offices of communications.

While the radiofication of Kaunasskaya Oblast was carried out energetically in 1951, Belyanin pointed out, it lagged in 1952. In the first 8 months of 1952, only one wired radio center was built, and the radiofication of one kolkhoz completed. (3) Sovetskaya Litva of 22 May 1952 revealed that the total number of rural wired radio centers operating in the oblast in May 1952 was 102. (4)

Belyanin explained that one important reason why radiofication was behind in Kaunasskaya Oblast was that the problem of distributing credits for the construction of wired radio centers had not been resolved, even though 60 kolkhozes had made claims and concluded agreements for the construction of wired radio centers. The Kaunasskaya Oblast Agricultural Administration had shown a complete lack of interest in the question of radiofying villages. (3) On 29 October 1952, Sovetskaya Litva complained that nothing had been done about the radiofication of the oblast. Requests for the construction of wired radio centers had come from 36 kolkhozes to the rayon offices of communications and to the oblast directorate of the radio relay network. Only one kolkhoz wired radio center had been built, however. (5) Belyanin pointed out that the situation was not much better in Shyaulyayskaya Oblast, where in the course of 2 years only seven kolkhoz wired radio centers were built and even those were not being fully used.

Belyanin stated that up to 60,000 wired radio speakers must be installed in Kaunasskaya Oblast in the next few years. This means, he continued, that hundreds of new wired radio centers must be constructed, and thousands of kilometers of overhead and underground radio lines built. He added that trading organizations must also improve their services, for frequently it is impossible to find good electrodynamic speakers, tubes, batteries, etc., in the stores of the oblast. (3)

#### Belorussian SSR

The radio network of the Belorussian SSR was not only restored during the postwar years, but the prewar level has been exceeded five times, according to Sovetskaya Belorussiya of 16 December 1952. The number of kolkhoz wired radio centers built in 9 months of 1952 was twice as great as in all of 1951. Unfortunately, the article continued, the Administration of the Authorized Representative of the Ministry of Communications for the Belorussian SSR and his oblast administrations have given insufficient attention to the radiofication of kolkhozes. The state plan for the installation of wired radio speakers has been fulfilled unsatisfactorily. On the average, wired radio centers are only loaded 10-15 percent of their capacity, the article stated. It pointed out that in Lyubinskiy Rayon, 62 wired radio speakers were connected to a 500-watt wired radio center. The paper declared that it was a well-known fact that organs of communications were not interested in a wired radio center after it was built. For example, one kolkhoz wired radio center was built in 1948 in Minskaya Oblast. It worked for 2 years and then shut down. The Minskaya Oblast directorate of Radio Relay Network knew about it but took no measures to improve the work of kolkhoz wired radio centers. (6)

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According to Sovetskaya Litva of 19 December 1952, 20 kolkhoz wired radio centers were installed in 1952 in Mogilevskaya Oblast. By the end of 1955, all villages of the oblast are to be radiofied.(7)

According to Pravda Ukrainy of 1 August 1952, more than 1,300 wired radio speakers had been installed in Grodnenskaya Oblast in 1952 and more than 200 kolkhozes radiofied.(8) In 2 years, Komsomol'skaya Pravda of 10 January 1953 reported, 36 wired radio centers had been put into operation and about 200 kolkhozes radiofied.(9)

In Poleskaya Oblast, Sovetskaya Belorussiya of 13 September 1952 stated, 89 kolkhozes have been radiofied; 17 kolkhozes have their own wired radio centers.(10) According to the same paper of 16 December 1952, particularly bad use has been made of the power of wired radio centers and relay lines in Poleskaya Oblast.(6)

#### Ukrainian SSR

Izvestiya of 20 May 1952 reported that 1,500 kolkhoz wired radio centers were in operation in the Ukrainian SSR.(11) In the first 9 months of 1952, Pravda Ukrainy reported on 26 October 1952, more than 240,000 wired radio speakers and 100,000 radio receivers were installed. The paper said great successes had been achieved in the radiofication of Khar'kovskaya, Khersonskaya, and Dnepropetrovskaya oblasts, but reported lagging in Odesskaya and Ternopol'skaya oblasts. The output of radio speakers was termed unsatisfactory and there were few shops for the repair of radio equipment.(12)

Izvestiya stated on 20 May 1952 that 130 new wired radio centers had been built in the kolkhozes of Kiyevskaya Oblast. The 1951 plan for the radiofication of towns and villages in the oblast was fulfilled by more than 170 percent, and the assignment for the first quarter 1952 considerably surpassed.(11)

Pravda Ukrainy wrote on the same date that 31 rural wired radio centers were operating in Chernovitskaya Oblast. New radio lines were going up and kolkhoz workers intended to install more than 8,000 wired radio speakers before the end of 1952.(13)

On 28 November 1952, Pravda Ukrainy reported that in the villages of Kirovogradskaya Oblast 16 wired radio centers were built, 7,000 wired radio speakers installed, and about 440 kilometers of lines laid in the first 10 months of 1952. More than 1,800 wired radio speakers were to be installed by the end of 1952. The article calculated that there were 45 kolkhoz and inter-kolkhoz wired radio centers at the time in the oblast.(14)

#### Moldavian SSR

Sovetskaya Moldaviya of 6 August 1952 reported that a total of 14 wired radio centers had been installed so far in 1952 in the villages of Tiraspol'skiy Okrug.(15)

#### Georgian SSR

Zarya Vostoka of 16 September 1952 complained that the decree of the Council of Ministers USSR on the radiofication of kolkhozes was being fulfilled very slowly. Work and production discipline were being violated and many organs of communications had an irresponsible attitude toward their work.(16)

Pravda Ukrainy of 11 December and Sovetskaya Estoniya of 12 December 1952 both reported that during 1952 the kolkhozes of Georgian SSR spent 1.5 million rubles for radiofication. The articles stated that 270 wired radio centers

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were operating in villages and that 116,000 wired radio speakers had been installed. They pointed out that the Fifth Five-Year Plan anticipates great work on the radiofication of Georgian villages. The length of radio relay lines is to increase by 9,000 kilometers, 280 wired radio centers are to be equipped, and more than 2,000 wired radio speakers installed.(17)

According to A. Kelendzheridze, chairman of the Committee of Radio Information under the Council of Ministers Georgian SSR, writing in Zarya Vostoka of 7 September 1952, the present Tbilisi radio station does not meet the growing demands of radio listeners. He declared that a new broadcasting station must be built in a short time or at any rate during the Fifth Five-Year Plan. He cited complaints from workers on the Volga and Dnepr construction sites, kolkhoz workers of the Turkmen SSR, miners of the Donbass, tobacco growers of Moldavia, and workers of Nikopol'skiy manganese basin to the effect that radio broadcasts transmitted are almost inaudible on normal radio receivers.

According to Kelendzheridze, another problem which faces the Georgian SSR is to hasten the organization of television transmission in the republic. He complained that problems had arisen in connection with relaying programs from concert halls, theaters, etc., despite government directives to organs of communications to offer committees of radio broadcasting the technical possibility of broadcasting concerts and plays. He asserted that it is necessary to plan to create permanent relay centers in the more significant theater and concert halls of the republic. He explained that mobile relay centers could be used for other places.(18)

#### Kazakh SSR

On 24 December 1952, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda reported that the 1952 plan for the radiofication of the Kazakh SSR called for putting into operation several wired radio centers and not less than 33,000 wired radio speakers. The plan was fulfilled only 43 percent by the end of the third quarter. Akmolinskaya, Semipalatinskaya, Zapadno-Kazakhstanskaya, and Karagandinskaya oblasts were mentioned as particularly behind. In Akmolinskaya Oblast, the installation of wired radio centers in 13 kolkhozes was planned, but only two had been installed. The article denied that a shortage of equipment was responsible; on the contrary, it claimed, the oblast administration of communications had ten idle sets of wired radio centers, and no agreement had been concluded for their installation. In Karagandinskaya Oblast, not one village had been radiofied in the 9 months. In many kolkhozes, available wired radio centers were not being used.(19)

G. German, editor in chief of political broadcasts of the Committee for Radio Information under the Council of Ministers of Kazakh SSR, urged in a Kazakhstanskaya Pravda article of 19 September 1952 that radio broadcasting in Kazakhstan be improved. Radio stations operating in Alma-Ata, he complained, cannot be heard in several rayons; when Moscow broadcasts are relayed, outside stations are frequently heard. He declared that Alma-Ata and several oblast radio stations are many years behind in the growth of radio engineering. The radio studio in the capital, German continued, is inadequate. The so-called "large studio" is to hold 18 persons, but for a 35-40 piece orchestra the acoustics are bad. German called for the construction of a house of communications in the Fifth Five-Year Plan. In the meantime, he continued, the radio studio in Alma-Ata should be re-equipped and expanded; in addition, a number of oblast studios should be brought up to a par with technical norms.(20)

On 10 July 1952, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda reported that some 200 radio receivers had been sold in the Kazakh SSR so far in 1952.(21)

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On 20 June 1952, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda stated that about 20 wired radio centers were being built in the villages of Pavlodarskaya Oblast and were to rely on wind-driven generators for power.(22)

In Taldy-Kurganskaya Oblast, the radiofication of villages is being carried out successfully, according to Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of 23 July 1952. The 1952 plan called for the construction of 14 wired radio centers.(23)

In Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast, Kommunist Tadzhikistana reported on 12 July 1952, ten kolkhoz wired radio centers had been built so far in 1952. According to the same report, nine out of every ten kolkhoz villages were radiofied.(24)

On 28 November 1952, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda stated that the radiofication of railroad stations had continued with the installation of wired radio centers at Lokom', Sary-Ozek, Merke, and other stations. The wired radio centers transmit announcements of the arrival and departure of passenger trains and relay broadcasts from Moscow and Alma-Ata.(25)

Uzbek SSR

In Bukharskaya Oblast, Pravda Vostoka of 4 November 1952 revealed that, in comparison to 1951, the number of kolkhoz wired radio centers had doubled and of wired radio speakers tripled in 1952. By the end of 1952, another 300 wired radio speakers were to be installed.(26)

Turkmen SSR

Turkmentskaya Iskra reported on 6 January 1953 that 50 wired radio centers were built in 1952 in the villages and rayon centers of the Turkmen SSR, and 8,000 wired radio speakers were installed in kolkhoz homes.(27)

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